

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

August 18, 2009

AMENDMENT to Item 54

Agenda Item 54 is a request from the Department of Beaches and Harbors for fee increases and new fees, which will raise an estimated \$1 million in Beach revenue and an additional \$325,000 in Marina revenue for the Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

Unfortunately, these additional funds are scheduled to go to the General Fund, rather than back to the Department of Beaches and Harbors to benefit the public who will be paying these fees. I believe these additional funds raised by the beach-going public should benefit the beach-going public, and therefore the funds should be directed to the Department of Beaches and Harbors.

If anyone has visited a County beach this summer, it is evident that the crowds being experienced in these recreational venues has grown, it seems, beyond capacity as residents and visitors turn to lower priced alternatives in these hard economic times. Indeed, it has been estimated that in excess of 23 million visitors attended beaches in June and July of this year alone.

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As a result, the need for increased beach and Marina maintenance service levels, not to mention our public facilities, is clearly evident. In this regard, I have begun receiving an increasing number of complaints from the public, our Marina partners, and even elected officials about our inability to keep up our beach maintenance and to maintain and refresh the Marina's public areas. Indeed, the Department must do more in order to provide the excellent service and safe and clean facilities to our beach going and Marina public that our County Strategic Plan envisions.

This is particularly the case when we recognize that these inviting venues are popular with all demographics of our diverse County, given the comparatively low cost of staying at the beach for a day or enjoying a ride on the water or one of the free waterside classical concerts the Department offers during the summer at the Marina. As mentioned in connection with the County's pools managed by the Department of Parks and Recreation, it is important to keep these recreational venues safe and clean to promote public access during tough economic times where recreation options are limited.

Doing more takes more. Whatever additional revenue the Department is able to achieve through its fee increases and new fees should stay with the Department to restore positions and other curtailments included in the Department's Fiscal Year 2009-10 budget, as well as to offset increased operating costs.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct that any revenue secured by the Department of Beaches and Harbors due to the fee increases and new fees identified in Agenda Item 54 stay with the Department of Beaches and Harbors rather than be siphoned off in whole or part for other General Fund purposes.

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